

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please insert the following paragraph on page 4, between lines 23 and 24:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

The single figure is an enlarged fragmentary sectional view of a fuel injection valve according to the present invention.

Please replace the last paragraph on page 4, lines 25-31, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Referring now to the single figure, a fuel injection valve 10 according to the present invention comprises a needle valve 12 which is a sliding member used in presence of fuel 14 for an automotive vehicle. The needle valve 12 includes a base material or main body section 12a made of iron-based material or steel, or aluminum-based material. The base material 12a of the needle valve 12 has a sliding section or surface 12b which is in slidable contact with a sliding section or surface 16b of a base material 16a of an opposite member 16.

Please replace the first paragraph on page 5, lines 1-8, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In such a fuel injection valve, the opposite member 16 is a guide (for the needle valve) or a housing constituting the fuel injection valve, so that a hard carbon thin film 18 is formed on the sliding surface 12b of the base material 12a so as to be slidably coactable with the opposite member. It will be understood that the base material or main body section 16a of the opposite member may be coated at its sliding surface 16b with the hard carbon thin film in place of the base material of the needle valve, which will provide the same effects as those in case of the needle valve being coated with the hard carbon thin film. Otherwise, the hard carbon thin film 18 may be formed both on the sliding surfaces 12b, 16b of the base materials 12a, 16a of the needle valve 12 and the opposite member 16.